

# NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

## *Office of Public Information*



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May 9, 2011

## **May is National Drug Court Month in Nebraska**

In celebration of National Drug Court Month, Statewide Coordinator of Problem-Solving Courts Scott Carlson, has asked the Governor to designate May as National Drug and Problem-Solving Court month in Nebraska.

A public proclamation ceremony will be used as the primary vehicle to showcase drug court efforts throughout the state. This year the ceremony will be held Wednesday morning, May 11, 2011, in the Werner Chamber of the State Capitol. The public is welcome to attend; proclamation presentations begin at 10:30 a.m.

Drug courts are the nation's most effective strategy at reducing recidivism among seriously drug-addicted, nonviolent offenders with long criminal histories. "Drug courts are recognized both nationally and here in Nebraska as saving money and reducing crime," said Carlson. "This month many of Nebraska's twenty-three drug and problem-solving courts are hosting graduations to celebrate the designation of National Drug Court month."

Like the other 2,500 operational drug courts in the United States, Nebraska's drug and problem-solving courts are a judicially-supervised court programs that reduce correctional costs, protect community safety, and improve public welfare. In drug courts, seriously drug-addicted individuals remain in treatment for long periods of time while under close supervision. Drug court participants must meet obligations to themselves, their families, and society. To ensure accountability, they are regularly and randomly tested for drug use, required to appear frequently in court for the judge to review their progress, rewarded for doing well and sanctioned when not living up to their obligations. Research continues to show that drug courts work better than jail or prison and better than treatment alone.

For more information contact: Scott Carlson, Statewide Coordinator of Problem-Solving Courts, 402-471-4415 or [scott.carlson@nebraska.gov](mailto:scott.carlson@nebraska.gov).

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